



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	<b>MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE</b>
Erin J. Lindsay	)	
Application No.: 10/614,183	)	Group Art Unit: 3731
Filed: July 8, 2003	)	Examiner: AMY T LANG
For: VEIN DISSECTOR, CAUTERIZING	)	Confirmation No.: 7109
AND LIGATING APPARATUS FOR	)	
ENDOSCOPIC HARVESTING OF	)	
BLOOD VESSELS	)	

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

An Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance accompanied the Notice of Allowability recently issued in connection with the above-identified application.

The Statement notes that that "the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious an apparatus for harvesting a blood vessel comprising a distal cone portion through which a manipulator fork extends such that when the manipulator for is fully retracted it is not able to pass through the cone portion."

This paper is filed to clarify the record with respect to the comments in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance. It is understood that the comments in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance are not intended as a verbatim extraction of the language in each of the independent claims of this application.

Thus, it is also understood that the Comments are not intended to suggest that all of the allowed independent claims in this application contain the particular language and features specifically mentioned in the Statement. That is, Applicants submit that the comments in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance are not

intended to imply that the allowed claims in this application recite anything different than that which the claims themselves recite, or equivalents thereof.

In sum, the undersigned submits that the claims in this application are allowable because the prior art does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention as recited in each of the independent claims.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or if the Examiner disagrees in any way with these Comments, the undersigned respectfully requests that she be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: February 19, 2009

By:



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